

## Wyoming Department of Education

Richard Crandall, Director
Hathaway Building, 2nd Floor, 2300 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Phone: 307-777-7675 | Fax: 307-777-6234 | Website: edu.wyoming.gov

## **MEMORANDUM NO. 2013-145**

**TO:** School District Superintendents

K-12 School Principals

**FROM:** Karen Bierhaus, 21st CCLC Program Consultant

Standards and Accountability Division

**DATE:** December 16, 2013

**SUBJECT:** 21st Century Community Learning Centers-Cohort 9

Application Guide Available Online

## TIME SENSITIVE

The competitive grant application guide for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21 CCLC) Cohort 9 after-school programming is now available.

Approximately \$1.1 million will be available to support after-school programming under the 21st Century Community Learning Centers federal grant program. Applicants are requested to submit an <u>intent to apply</u> no later than <u>Friday</u>, <u>January 3</u>, <u>2014</u>. The intent to apply form is available on the Wyoming Department of Education website:

http://edu.wyoming.gov/Programs/safety/21st\_century\_cclc\_program.aspx

Please note the guide provides potential applicants an outline of the information that will be needed to complete the online application when it becomes available on the Grants Management System (GMS) on January 3, 2014.

The purpose of the 21 CCLC program is to establish or expand community learning centers that provide academic and enrichment opportunities along with activities designed to complement the regular academic program of students during those times when school is not in session (before and after school, holidays, weekends or summer recess).

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Centers can be located in elementary or secondary schools or other similarly accessible community facilities and provide a range of high-quality services to support student learning and development.

Those services must include academic support tutoring and academic enrichment, and may include mentoring, homework assistance, music, arts, sports, cultural activities and service learning opportunities. At the same time, centers must design programs to engage the families of 21 CLCC participants for the purpose of increasing parent/family engagement in learning and developing resiliency through positive home/school relationships.

Any public or private organization is eligible to apply for a 21 CCLC grant. Examples of agencies and organizations eligible under the 21 CCLC program include, but are not limited to: public schools/school districts, charter schools, private schools, non-profit agencies, city or county government agencies, faith-based organizations (including religious private schools), institutions of higher education, and for-profit corporations.

The statute requires eligible organizations applying for funds to collaborate with the schools that participating children attend. The statute also allows a consortium of two or more agencies, organizations or entities to apply.

Consistent with federal legislation, the Wyoming Department of Education must give priority to those applications that primarily serve students who attend schools that are eligible as Title I school wide programs, and/or 40 percent or more of the student population is eligible to receive free or reduced price lunch.

Additionally, priority will be given to projects that will serve children in schools designated as in need of improvement, and are submitted jointly by school districts receiving Title I funds and community-based organizations or public/private organizations.

Please also note that to be eligible, all schools to be served in the application must have a student population that has a free and reduced price lunch percentage at or above 25 percent. Other priorities are outlined within the application guide and project guidelines.

If you have any questions about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant and/or application guide, please contact Karen Bierhaus: 307.857.9284 or karen.bierhaus@wyo.gov.